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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant(s): Clark et al.

Appl. No.: 10/039,311

Filed: 10/26/2001

Title: STERILIZATION OF PACKAGES
AND THEIR CONTENTS USING
LIGHT

Attorney Docket No.: 70625

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Group Art Unit: 2818

Examiner: Unknown

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Dear Sir:

This Information Disclosure Statement is submitted:

- under 37 CFR 1.97(b), or
 - (Within three months of filing national application; or date of entry of international application; or before mailing date of first office action on the merits; whichever occurs last)
- under 37 CFR 1.97(c) together with either a:
 - Statement under 37 CFR 1.97(e), or
 - a \$180.00 fee under 37 CFR 1.17(p), or
 - (After the CFR 1.97(b) time period, but before final action or notice of allowance, whichever occurs first)
- under 37 CFR 1.97(d) together with a:
 - Statement under 37 CFR 1.97(e), and
 - a \$180.00 fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(p).
 - (Filed after final action or notice of allowance, whichever occurs first, but before payment of the issue fee).

Applicant(s) submit herewith Form PTO 1449-Information Disclosure Citation identifying references which applicant(s) are aware, which applicant(s) believe(s) may be material to the examination of this application and for which there may be a duty to disclose in accordance with 37 CFR 1.56.

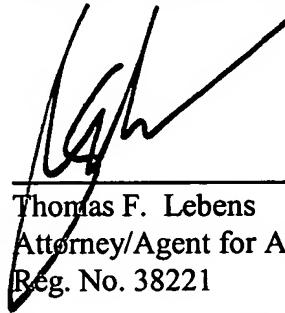
The relevance of the cited references is that this is the closest art of which Applicant is aware.

Copies of these references, with the exception of EP 1033138, are not provided herewith pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.98(d) as copies of these references were previously submitted in United States Patent Application No. 08/846,102, filed 5/1/1997 which was relied on for an earlier effective filing date under 35 U.S.C. 120.

Applicant submits that the above references taken alone or in combination neither anticipate nor render obvious the present invention. Consideration of the foregoing in relation to this application is respectfully requested.

It is requested that the information disclosed herein be made of record in this application.

Respectfully submitted,

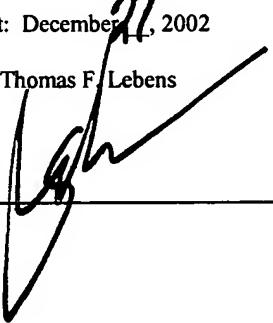


Thomas F. Lebans
Attorney/Agent for Applicant(s)
Reg. No. 38221

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being deposited with the United States Postal Service as first class mail in an envelope addressed to: Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231.

Date of Deposit: December 27, 2002

Typed Name: Thomas F. Lebans

Signature: 

Date: December 27, 2002

Telephone No.: 805-781-2865



PTO/SB/08A (10-01)

Approved for use through 10/31/2002. OMB 0651-0031
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~~Substitute for form 1449A/PTO~~

**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**
(use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet

1

of

2

Complete if Known

Application Number	10/039,311
Filing Date	10/26/2001
First Named Inventor	Clark et al.
Art Unit	2881
Examiner Name	
Attorney Docket Number	70625

U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

FOREIGN PATENT DOCUMENTS

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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*EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609. Draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form with next communication to applicant.

¹Applicant's unique citation designation number (optional). ²See Kinds Codes of USPTO Patent Documents at www.uspto.gov or MPEP 901.04.

Enter Office that issued the document, by the two-letter code (WIPO Standard ST.3). **For Japanese patent documents, the indication of the year of the reign of the Emperor must precede the serial number of the patent document.** **Kind of document by the appropriate symbols as indicated on the right.**

document under WIPO Standard ST. 16 if possible. *Applicant is to place a check mark here if English language Translation is attached.
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**INFORMATION DISCLOSURE
STATEMENT BY APPLICANT**
(use as many sheets as necessary)

Sheet 2 of 2

Substitute for form 1449B/PTO				Complete if Known	
INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT BY APPLICANT <i>(use as many sheets as necessary)</i>				Application Number	10/039,311
Filing Date	10/26/2001				
First Named Inventor	Clark et al.				
Group Art Unit	2881				
Examiner Name					
Sheet	2	of	2	Attorney Docket Number	70625

OTHER PRIOR ART -- NON PATENT LITERATURE DOCUMENTS

Examiner Signature		Date Considered	
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